GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3891
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2016
Hike in Vegetables and Fruits Prices
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that prices of fruits and vegetables including onion, potato and tomato have increased manifold during the last three months and these have become unaffordable for the common man, if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;

(b) the total stock of onion, tomato and potato available in the market as of date along with the plan made by the Government for off season supply of fruits and vegetables to curb the price rise;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is a gap between the demand and supply in vegetable sector which causes the increase in their prices, if so, the details thereof along with the production, demand and supply of onion, potato and tomato during each of the last three years, State-wise and the steps taken to bridge the demand-supply gap;

(d) whether the Government is aware that hoarding of vegetables is the main reason for increase in the price rise, if so, the action taken by the Government against the hoarders of vegetables; and

(e) the comprehensive steps as well as long term and short term measures taken by the Government to promote the production and supply of fruits and vegetables and to bring down their prices?

Contdâ€¦2/-

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a): Price of fruits and vegetables differs from place to place and depends on various factors such as seasonality of production, quality of produce, mismatch in demand and supply etc.. The all India average retail price of major fruits and vegetables for the last three months are as under:
(Rs. /kg)

Commodity	May,16	June,16	July,16	% Variation in July over May
1	2	3	4	5
Onion	15.8	16.9	18.0	13.7
Potato	20.3	22.7	24.6	21.2
Tomato	28.9	48.8	42.6	47.6
Apple	122.0	135.9	130.6	7.0
Banana	33.2	33.7	35.0	5.3

Source:- National Horticulture Board (NHB)
(b) to (d): State−wise production of potato, onion and tomato for last three years is at annexure. Creation of a buffer stock of essential vegetables like onion for release into the market to curb prices is a measure taken by the government.

All India production and demand of potato, onion and tomato for the last three years is given below :
(In '000 Tonnes)

Commodity	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16*
Potato				
Production	45344	41555	48009	45599
Demand	30847	31320	31777	34358
Onion				
Production	16813	19402	18927	20214
Demand	14889	14623	14064	14687
Tomato				
Production	18227	18736	16385	18165

Demand 11764 12018 11966 12114
*: Provisional
Contdâ€¦3/-

Above table shows that production of potato, onion and tomato is more than demand and there is no gap from supply side, during the year. However, in certain periods of the year, there are price fluctuations caused by demand supply mismatches. There is no question of hoarding as there is no stock limit on vegetables.

(e): The Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme is being implemented during XII Plan w.e.f. 2014-15, for holistic growth of the horticulture sector covering all the horticulture crops including fruits and vegetables. Under MIDH, assistance is provided for long term and short term measures to promote the production and supply of fruits and vegetables through production of quality planting material and of hybrid vegetables, import of high quality seeds, setting up and modernization of nurseries. setting up and strengthening of tissue culture units, establishment of new gardens/orchards and plantations, rejuvenation of old and senile orchards, post harvest management which includes primary processing units, minimal processing units, ripening chamber, reefer vehicle, to minimize losses and for value addition. It also includes creation of water resources, adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), organic farming and capacity building of farmers and technicians for adopting improved technologies. Other Government measures include facilitating direct marketing, farmer consumer markets and e-markets.